



Sunday 26 January 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

Novel Coronavirus

I confirm the School is monitoring reports about the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. As per our usual practices, we continue to maintain a watching brief across both federal and state Department of Health advices in addition to information from the School's risk management partner, SOS International, and our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron.

The Australian Government Department of Health advises it is monitoring the situation and is prepared to increase response activities as required. Whilst such steps are being taken and there are procedures to enable the detection of people with illnesses travelling into Australia, we are in the early stages of understanding and planning for any possible outbreak. Accordingly, as an effective means of managing any potential risk to our community, **if you visited the Wuhan district of China during the holidays, please keep your children at home for the sake of their own wellbeing and so as not to heighten risk for their peers, until they have been back in Australia for at least 14 days.**

As a School we offer staggered commencement times at each of our four Campuses, depending on whether students are new or returning, as well as age appropriate measures. Please manage the 14-day period based on your child's start date. For example, if your child is new to Corio they commence on 29 January 2020: as such, your child will need to have returned to Australia by 15 January 2020; if you arrived back in Australia after 15 January, they should not commence School until 14 days after their arrival date. During this time, please remain alert to symptoms related to a fever or respiratory symptoms including a cough, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, a sore throat, or a runny nose. You should visit your doctor if these symptoms are present.

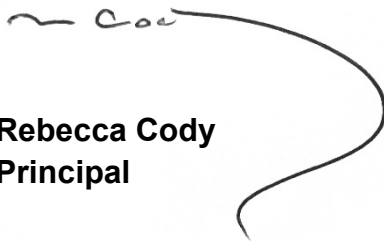
If you did not visit the Wuhan district of China during the holidays, you should feel confident to send your child to School unless they have any of the above symptoms, in which case, as with other viruses, you should keep your child at home until such symptoms have cleared. Again, this is for the sake of their own wellbeing but also to mitigate risk for their peers particularly given our unique boarding context at Timbertop and Corio, as well as our diverse student population across all four campuses.

We encourage our students to continue to adopt the World Health Organisation guidelines on general coughing and sneezing as standard precautionary practice for infection prevention and control. These minimum practices will be reiterated by educators

as part of return to School messaging in the classroom and at assemblies. As parents we seek your support in refreshing these practices through discussion at home before School commences. This [poster](#) will be of assistance as you share key hygiene and timely health messages with your child, including the necessity of thorough hand washing.

Thank you for your assistance as we strive to keep our community well and safe. Should you require further information, regular updates may be found at <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus>. We encourage you to view this site regularly; GGS updates will be weekly via our website or more often as required.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

50 Biddlecombe Avenue, Corio, Victoria, Australia 3214
T +61 3 5273 9247 E Principal@ggs.vic.edu.au

BOSTOCK HOUSE | CORIO | TIMBERTOP® | TOORAK

CRICOS 00143G ABN 92 004 971 500 www.ggs.vic.edu.au